

Message Text

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14

ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 USIA-12 FBIE-00 SMI-01 SCI-01

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P R 050812Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO AMCONSUL HONG KONG PRIORITY

SECSTATE WASHDC 9931

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 6121

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OEXC, TW

SUBJECT: PEKING MAN FOSSILS AND CHRISTOPHER JANUS

REF: STATE 192852

1. DURING HIS THREE DAY VISIT TO TAIPEI, JANUS WAS BRIEFED BY EMBASSY AND MET WITH MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO GEORGE YEH, CURATORS OF NATIONAL PALACE AND NATIONAL HISTORICAL MUSEUMS, AND VARIOUS SCHOLARS AT THE ACADEMIA SINICA. ACCORDING TO JANUS, ALL CHINESE HERE WITH WHOM HE DISCUSSED HIS QUEST WERE FRIENDLY AND FORTHCOMING BUT ALL DERIDED IDEA THAT PEKING MAN FOSSILS WERE ON TAIWAN.

2. JANUS RECEIVED FAIR AMOUNT OF PRESS COVERAGE AND AT SUGGESTION OF DR. HO HAO-TIEN, DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL HISTORICAL MUSEUM, HELD PRESS CONFERENCE AT WHICH HE ANNOUNCED US\$150,000 REWARD FOR INFORMATION LEADING TO RECOVERY OF FOSSILS. PRESS ACCOUNTS OF NEWS CONFERENCE QUOTED JANUS AS SAYING THAT FOSSILS, IF FOUND, WOULD BE RETURNED TO REPUBLIC OF CHINA; HOWEVER, JANUS MAINTAINS HE SIMPLY SAID FOSSILS SHOULD BE AVAILABLE TO QUALIFIED SCIENTIFIC RESEARCHERS. ALTHOUGH PRESS NOTED JANUS HAD VISITED
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MAINLAND LAST YEAR, WE HAVE SEEN NO ACCOUNTS SUGGESTING

HIS QUEST WAS INSPIRED BY OR AT THE DIRECTION OF PRC.
SIMILARLY, WE HAVE SEEN NO SUGGESTIONS THAT USG
INVOLVED IN SEARCH.

3. JANUS DEPARTS FOR HONG KONG OCTOBER 6 (FLIGHT NOT
YET FIRM) TO FOLLOW UP LEADS SUGGESTING PERSONS RESIDING
IN COLONY MAY HAVE KNOWLEDGE OF FOSSILS' WHEREABOUTS.
HE INTENDS CALL AT CONGEN AND WE HAVE SUGGESTED HE CALL
ON DAVID DEAN.
GLEYSTEN

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